

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02197 132209Z

63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SS-20 PM-07 DODE-00 IGA-02 EB-11

L-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06

OMB-01 MC-02 DRC-01 /142 W
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R 081038Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8328

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL HELICOPTER PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE 170038; (B) RANGOON 2146; (C) RANGOON A-71;
(D) STATE 164964

1. WE NOW HAVE BURMA AIR FORCE VIEWS ON CONFIGURATION (SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGE IN LIGHT OF ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON AVIONICS SYSTEMS, REF A) AND WILL BE READY TO SIGN PIO/C NEXT WEEK.

2. BAF INQUIRES ABOUT TRAINING PLANS FOR TWO ENGINEERING OFFICERS AND ONE ELECTRICAL OFFICER (REF C) WHO WILL BE SUPERVISING DEPOT-LEVEL MAINTENANCE OF HELICOPTERS. OUR OWN VIEW IS THAT, WHILE IT MAY BE DESIRABLE FOR THEM TO ATTEND PART OR ALL OF THE TRAINING COURSES FOR MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL AT BELL AND LYCOMING, ATTENDANCE AT A U.S. ARMY COURSE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR UH-1H ENGINEERING OFFICERS WOULD BETTER QUALIFY THEM FOR THEIR DUTIES.

3. BAF IS CONSIDERING PILOT TRAINING IN BURMA AS SUGGESTED REF D.

4. RE PARA 7 REF A, BAF PROBABLY COULD PROVIDE TEMPORARY QUARTERS
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02197 132209Z

AT MINGALADON AIR BASE, BUT MEALS WOULD BE A MAJOR PROBLEM. BE-

LIEVE IT PREFERABLE FOR EMBASSY/AID/BURMA TO ARRANGE QUARTERS FOR PILOT/MAINTENANCE REPRESENTATIVE IN RANGOON. WE CANNOT AT THIS POINT PREDICT WHETHER USG-OWNED OR LEASED QUARTERS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR TEMPORARY OCCUPANCY, BUT IF NOT WE COULD PROBABLY SECURE SMALL APARTMENT AT INYA LAKE HOTEL. IN ANY CASE, WE RECOMMEND FUNDING QUARTERS AND LOCAL LIVING EXPENSES WITH USG-OWNED KYATS (THROUGH AID ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT IF POSSIBLE), RATHER THAN THROUGH DOLLAR-FUNDED BELL CONTRACT.

5. BAF MADE NO COMMITMENT, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ABLE PROVIDE IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION FOR PILOT/MAINTENANCE REP. FAILING THIS, VEHICLE WOULD HAVE TO BE RENTED LOCALLY, AND AGAIN WE WOULD WISH TO DO THIS FROM USG-OWNED KYATS.

6. PILOT/MAINTENANCE REP WOULD NOT BE FORMALLY ENTITLED TO DUTY-FREE CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES. HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT TO ACCORD THEM ACCESS TO DUTY-FREE EMBASSY COMMISSARY, AMERICAN CLUB, ACCOMMODATION EXCHANGE, AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL, AND ARE CONFIDENT GUB WILL ACQUIESCE.

7. BAF POINTS OUT PILOT/MAINTENANCE REP SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE LIFE AND PERSONAL-INJURY INSURANCE COVERAGE, WHICH NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY IN ANY FORM USEFUL TO FOREIGNERS.

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